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BOLSHEVIK MACHINE PLANT

1. Question: Did you ever visit the "Bolshevik Machine Plant" in Kiev?
Answer: Yes, on several occasions, 25X1
2. Question: Were you sufficiently acquainted with the plant to comment on the type and quantity of its production as of the time you were last in Kiev?
Answer: The "Bolshevik Machine Plant" was primarily a manufacturer of heavy machinery. It also produced heavy castings, such as tank turrets and other large tank parts, heavy duty axles, and other parts required in the assembly of military vehicles. I cannot specify in detail since I knew the plant only as a visitor and my knowledge of its operations is limited to what I was able to observe. I noted that cast iron, carbon steel, and chrome-nickel steel were abundantly used and I presume these were the prime metals used in the plants end products. I am not familiar with the quantitative aspects of its production but I do recall the plant employed about 12,000 workers in the period 1941.
3. Question: In your visits to the plant did you note any industrial hygiene or safety measures in effect for the protection of the workers?
Answer: On the contrary, I was struck by the complete absence of such measures. 25X1
4. Question: Where was the plant located?
Answer: On the Brest-Litovsk Shosse (shosse means paved street). I can't recall its exact location.

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

5. Question: Do you recall what methods were in effect in Kiev for the disposal of garbage and sewage?

Answer: Yes, quite clearly. Garbage was placed in open boxes in back yards. When the boxes were full to overflowing and the garbage so ripe its odor could no longer be tolerated, it was buried in ditches dug by the house-holders in their own yards. There was no system of garbage collection, either municipal or private. Those who lived in the heavily congested center of the city were obliged to cart their garbage to outlying fields where it was either dumped or buried.

Sewage was carried from the city in a system of underground mains which debouched on sewage beds along the Dnieper River to the north of Kiev just beyond the railroad bridge. The sewage beds were exploited for their fertility by using them for the growth of garden vegetables. There was an overflow channel from the beds to the river. The sewage mains were narrow and subject to frequent clogging. It was not uncommon to see the sewage backed up into the city streets. Sedimentary pumping stations were located at several places in the city and I think the main one was in the Podol section.

6. Question: What percentage of the city's houses were included in the sewage system?

Answer: I am of the impression that most of the houses in Kiev proper were connected with the system. Suburban areas on the periphery of the city were not served except where large factories were located.

7. Question: Are you familiar with the diseases that were predominant in Kiev?

Answer: Typhoid fever, Amoebic and Bacillary Dysentery and Tuberculosis were endemic. There were always many cases. Trichinosis and Rabies occurred quite frequently. There were occasional cases of Cholera and Bubonic Plague but these diseases never reached epidemic form. I think they must have been brought in from other areas. The great epidemics were the Typhus outbreaks of 1918-1920 and 1932-1933; the Scarlet Fever outbreak of 1937-1939; and the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. Most of the common childhood diseases were present although I never heard of a case of Polio-myelitis. Diphtheria struck me as being one of the most serious child killers. All of these diseases were being brought under control [] in 1941.

8. Question: Do you recall the great famine of 1931-1934? Did it have any effect upon the general health of those who survived it, especially on the health of surviving children?

Answer: I do recall that Tuberculosis and Typhus hit hard during and immediately after the famine. I presume this resulted from a general lowering of resistance brought on by the lack of nutrition. The great tragedy of the famine lay in the villages and countryside. Cities were not seriously affected since they were given a food allotment by the Government sufficient to sustain life, though it was not much. I would say that the children fortunate enough to survive the full impact of the famine tended to mature with thin, spare bodies and narrow chests. This lack of normal body development may have contributed to the low productive capacity typical of the workers who stemmed from that generation.

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